

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1       1.     A visitor information gathering apparatus, comprising:  
2              a display;  
3              at least one of a plurality of input devices;  
4              a storage;  
5              a processor; and  
6              at least one of a plurality of sensors, wherein  
7              said processor gathers information about visitors from at least one of a  
8              plurality of input devices from responses made by said visitors to prompts provided by said  
9              processor through said display; and wherein said processor substantially contemporaneously  
10             gathers information about said visitors from said at least one of a plurality of sensors; and  
11             wherein said processor stores said information about visitors into said storage.

1       2.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said information about said visitors  
2     is gathered from said at least one of a plurality of sensors without said visitor being aware of  
3     said gathering.

1       3.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a music playing device,  
2     wherein said processor controls playing of music to said visitors.

1       4.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said information about visitors is at  
2     least one of a name, an organization represented by a visitor, a purpose of a visit, a date of a  
3     visit, a time of a visit, a person to be visited, an identity of a group of visitors visiting  
4     together.

1       5.     The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor displays on said  
2     display at least one of a greeting, a slide show of product images, advertising, stock values,  
3     daily cartoons, and news.

1       6.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a scanner that scans at  
2     least one of a first side and a second side of a business card having printing on at least one of  
3     said first side and said second side; and wherein, responsive to detecting text on said at least  
4     one of said first side and said second side, said processor processes said text in accordance  
5     with a language of said text.

1                   7.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a microphone, wherein  
2     said microphone provides input of speech of said visitors.

1                   8.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a video camera, wherein  
2     said video camera provides input of images of said visitors.

1                   9.     The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a speaker, wherein said  
2     speaker provides directions to said visitor.

1                   10.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a plurality  
2     of visitor wands, said visitor wands recording experiences of said visitors.

1                   11.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising biometric sensors, said  
2     biometric sensors recording biometric information about said visitor.

1                   12.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a handwriting tablet, said  
2     handwriting tablet providing a sample of handwriting of said visitors.

1                   13.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security sensors, said  
2     security sensors providing information about potential threats.

1                   14.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a telephone interface, said  
2     telephone interface providing a telephone message to a person to be visited that said visitors  
3     have arrived.

1                   15.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a web interface, said web  
2     interface providing a readily accessible source of information gathered about said visitors.

1                   16.    A method for collecting information about visitors, said method  
2     comprising:

3                         gathering information about said visitors in an interactive session with an  
4     automated kiosk;

5                         placing said information into a format in which said information may be  
6     stored;

7                         storing said information for retrieval; and

8                         automatically obtaining information about said visitor from at least one of a  
9     plurality of sources.

1           17. The method of claim 16, wherein gathering information about said  
2 visitors at said automated kiosk comprises obtaining information from said visitor using a  
3 process of which said visitor is aware (conscious capture) and obtaining information about  
4 said visitor using a process of which said visitor is not aware (unconscious capture).

1           18. The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2                 providing said information about said visitor and said information gathered at  
3 said kiosk to at least one of a plurality of other users of said information.

1           19. The method of claim 16, wherein obtaining information about said  
2 visitor from a plurality of sources comprises at least one of performing a search on the  
3 Internet, searching a publicly available database, searching a database of visitor information  
4 obtained from said automated kiosk, and searching a local document database.

1           20. A system for tracking activity within a facility, said system  
2 comprising:  
3                 a plurality of locator apparatuses;  
4                 a network, interconnecting said plurality of locator apparatuses; and  
5                 at least one of a plurality of portable visitor wands; wherein,  
6                 said at least one of a plurality of portable visitor wands communicates an  
7 identity to at least one of said plurality of locator apparatuses; and wherein said at least one of  
8 said plurality of locator apparatuses track position of a visitor based upon said communicated  
9 identities.

1           21. The system of claim 20, wherein said communication is performed by  
2 at least one selected from an infrared communication link, a radio communication link, an  
3 optical communication link, sensing a magnetic card, a telephone communication link, a  
4 pager communication link, and a Bluetooth™ communication link.

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22. The system of claim 20, wherein said locator apparatuses are further  
operative to provide a history of visitors to at least one of said locator apparatuses.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein said locator apparatuses are further  
operative to provide a history of locator apparatuses visited by a particular visitor.

*Sub A3*

24. A computer programming product for collecting information about  
visitors, said computer programming product comprising:  
code for gathering information about said visitors in an interactive session  
with an automated kiosk;  
code for placing said information into a format in which said information may  
be stored;  
code for storing said information for retrieval;  
code for obtaining information about said visitor from at least one of a  
plurality of sources;  
code for providing said information about said visitor and said information  
gathered at said kiosk to persons interested in said information; and  
a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

25. An apparatus for automatically populating a database, said apparatus  
comprising:  
a display;  
at least one of a plurality of input devices;  
a storage; and  
a processor, wherein  
said processor captures information from said at least one of a plurality of  
input devices, said information entered responsive to prompts provided by said processor  
through said display; and wherein said processor stores said information about visitors into  
said storage.

26. An apparatus of claim 25, wherein said information comprises  
personnel information about at least one of a plurality of employees, said storage further  
comprising a database for storing said personnel information.

27. An apparatus of claim 25, further comprising at least one of a plurality  
of sensory devices, said sensory devices operative to provide additional information which is  
incorporated into said personnel database, said additional information associated with said  
personnel information by at least one of a plurality of linkages.

28. An apparatus of claim 27, wherein said additional information  
comprises at least one of an image, a time of entering said personnel information.

1           29. An apparatus of claim 25, further comprising using said personnel  
2 information to annotate documents.

1           30. An apparatus of claim 29, wherein using said personnel information to  
2 annotate documents further comprises replacing at least one of a plurality of names with  
3 hypertext links to said personnel information.

1           31. A method for providing an image, said method comprising:  
2 automatically capturing at least one of a plurality of images of a person;  
3 providing to said person said at least one of a plurality of images; and  
4 receiving from said person an indication of a preferred image, said preferred  
5 image selected from among said at least one of a plurality of images.

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